Joseph S. Merritt, Sr.
Res. Phone 301-435-7456

Joseph S. Merritt, Jr.
Res. Phone 302-285-4391

D. Stewart Padgett
Res. Phone 301-285-3428

Greenhouses at 1919 Hydrangea Rd.
1½ mile east of Dundalk

62 Ac

JOSEPH S. MERRITT, INC.

The Maryland Flower Garden

[1962]

HYDRANGEA SPECIALISTS

PHONE: 301-285-1919

MAIL ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 4088, DUNDALK (BALTIMORE) 22, MD.

PRODUCT PROMOTION PROGRAM

LIBRARY
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U. S. Department of Agriculture

SHIP TO

INVOICE TO: The U.S.Department of Agriculture,
Library, Division of Reference,
Washingto, 25, D.C.

SEASON WANTED	GROWING ON	EARLY FORCING	EASTER FORC'G	MOTHER'S DAY

YOUR ORDER REF.	DATE ACCEPTED	INVOICE NO.

DATE TO SHIP	PROPER TIME			SOON AS POSSIBLE		

TO SHIP VIA	BEST WAY	R. E. A. EXP.	FREIGHT	AIR FREIGHT	PARCEL POST	WILL PICK UP

All Prices Per 100 Plants, F.O.B. Dundalk (Baltimore), Md.	SPRING DELIVERY FOR GROWING ON		FALL DELIVERY – DORMANT FOR EASTER AND MOTHER'S DAY FORCING				
Pot Sizes →	Rooted	3"	3"	4"		5"	
Number of Shoots →	Cuttings	1 Shoot	1 Shoot	1 Shoot	2 or More	3 or More	
RECENT INTRODUCTIONS Per 100	30.00	55.00	55.00	70.00	90.00	120.00	
*Merritt's Blue (M) A Good Blue							
Merritt's Pride (M) A New Red							
Merritt's Supreme (M) Deep Pink							
NOVELTIES Per 100	22.00	45.00	45.00	60.00	80.00	100.00	
Monte Forte Perle (M) Carmine Red							
Red Cap (E) Red							
Todi (M) Dark Pink							
STANDARD VARIETIES Per 100	18.00	35.00	35.00	50.00	70.00	90.00	
*Hamburg (E) Carmine							
*Kuhnert (M) Rose Pink							
*Merveille (M) Light Red							
*Red Star (E) Brilliant							
Regula (E) White							
*Rose Supreme (L) Rose Pink							
Sister Therese (M) Best White							
Strafford (M) Dark Pink							
"OUR SELECTION" OF ALL VARIETIES →	NOTE: "Our Selection" - Billed According to Varieties Shipped						
TOTALS ORDERED →							

* These Varieties Blue Easily — See "Flower Colors" — Cultural Suggestions

TOTAL PLANTS ORDERED →

(E) - Early (M) - Mid-Season (L) - Late

REMARKS:

Don't Delay!

Order Hydrangeas Now!

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

TO: JOSEPH S. MERRITT, INC.

Please ship HYDRANGEAS as indicated above ☐

Please duplicate our last order for HYDRANGEAS ☐

Make this a standing order for HYDRANGEAS ☐
(Subject to your change anytime before shipping)

Signature Date

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

QUANTITY DISCOUNTS:

5% for 5,000 or more plants.
10% for 10,000 or more plants.

Merritt's Hydrangeas Bloom

1962

HYDRANGEA CULTURE IN BRIEF

PART A – STARTING FROM ROOTED CUTTINGS

1. PREPARING SOIL – A good soil mix consists of 2 parts loam and 1 part peat and, for heavy soil, add 1 part sharp sand. Soil pH should be 5.5 to 6.0, so add lime as needed. Sterilize soil either by METHYL BROMIDE (wait 72 hours before using soil) or STEAMING, for weed control.

2. POTTING CUTTINGS – Pot to 3″ pots to conserve greenhouse space, or to the larger sized pots to avoid shifting. Place outside after danger of frost is passed. Plunge pots in well drained soil, or in raised beds of ashes or sharp sand to provide good drainage. Shade with snow fence or other partial shade material until roots are established.

3. SOIL & WATER TESTING – Test soil frequently (your college or state extension service will do this for you at a nominal charge if you do not have your own testing equipment) and add nutrients as needed. Keep soil pH at 5.5 to 6.0. Excessive salt content in water in some regions has caused trouble. It is important to have water analyzed occasionally to prevent this possible source of trouble.

4. SUMMER FEEDING – Heavy NITROGEN feeding is usually indicated. Keep PHOSPHOROUS and POTASSIUM at medium level. A 25-10-10 fertilizer is a good general purpose feed. Liquid feeding is desirable for economy and speed. Feed small doses frequently, such as 1½ lbs. to 100 gals. water every 10 days. This reduces possibility of burning. Many growers find it desirable to feed by injection methods, to apply small quantities with each watering. Feed as soon as roots are established and continue until late September.

5. WATERING – Hydrangeas require ample and frequent watering, but they should not be sitting in water soaked ground.

6. PINCHING – Varieties such as STRAFFORD and MERVEILLE should be pinched about June 20, and for ranker varieties wait until about July 5. Pinch as low as possible, but always leave 2 sets of leaves to give plants enough lateral buds to produce 2 to 4 shoots.

7. FALL STORAGE – Don't take a chance on frost or freezing. Flower buds begin to initiate when night temperatures drop below 60° F. Store them in daylight until buds are fully initiated (about October 10th-20th), after which they may be placed in dark storage with temperatures about 40°-45° F for about 6 weeks. This fully cures the buds and the plants will force easier and faster from a longer period of dormancy.

PART B – FORCING FROM DORMANCY

8. POTTING – Before shifting from growing to finishing pots, thoroughly soak or slightly crush the ball of earth. (See paragraph 1 for soil mix.)

9. TIMING – Varieties such as STRAFFORD require about 100-110 days, while others like HAMBURG will force in about 90 days, if the plants have been well cured. Under-fed plants may take 10 days longer. The flower bud should be about the size of a pea 8 weeks before sale date when grown in night temperatures of 60° F. Shorten or lengthen forcing time by raising or lowering temperatures accordingly. CAUTION: Never drop temperatures below 55° F as MILDEW may develop.

10. FEEDING – The use of a 25-10-10 fertilizer for liquid feeding is usually desirable, at the rate of 3 lbs. to 100 gals. water every 10 days, starting as soon as new growth appears in the plants. Make occasional soil tests to avoid over-feeding, which will cause burning. Many growers find it desirable to feed by injection methods, to apply small quantities with each watering.

11. FLOWER COLORS – The amount of available ALUMINUM in the soil during forcing period determines the color of the flowers.

(a) Best PINKS are obtained when the ALUMINUM in the soil is tied up by keeping the pH at 6.0 - 6.5 (with proper use of lime) and feeding with high NITROGEN and high PHOSPHOROUS fertilizer. CAUTION: Always avoid over-feeding to prevent burning.

(b) Best BLUES are obtained when the ALUMINUM is available to the plant. Use varieties that are easily blued. Avoid use of lime, keep the pH at 5.5 or below and use 25-0-20 or 25-5-20 fertilizer, applying only as often as necessary to maintain good growth and green color in the leaves. Use up to 6 applications of ALUMINUM SULPHATE at rate of 1 lb. to 7 gals. water.

12. FINISHING – Attempt to harden off the plants about 2 weeks before sale by opening vents a little more, and lowering night temperatures to 55°-60° F (but not below 55° F). Hardening the plants will help them stand up better in retail stores and customers' homes. ALWAYS SOAK THE PLANT WELL BEFORE DELIVERY.

PART C – INSECTS AND DISEASES

13. CHLOROSIS – Lack of iron in the soil, or injured roots resulting from over-feeding or excess watering will cause chlorosis, which usually shows up as a yellowing of leaves, with darker green veins. The cause for this condition should be detected and corrected immediately to prevent permanent damage to the plants. While corrective action is being taken, use a CHELATED IRON at rate of 1 ounce to 25 gals. water to restore green color in leaves.

14. MILDEW – Dark and damp weather, or night temperatures below 55° F can cause mildew. Best treatment is to open vents as much as possible, particularly on cloudy days. Apply SULPHUR to heating pipes, or use MILDEX, if available in your area. Normally the condition will correct itself with plenty of fresh air and sunlight. CAUTION: Some AEROSOL INSECTICIDES are not compatible with SULPHUR. Play safe by not using aerosols within 7 days following sulphur application.

15. INSECTS – Avoid crowding plants, keep them well fertilized, properly ventilated and heated. APHIDS can be controlled by LINDANE, and the DIATHION or PARATHION aerosols are excellent for control of RED SPIDER and APHIDS.

16. BOTRYTIS – Either ZERLATE or FERMATE will serve as good controls for botrytis.

Joseph S. Merritt, Jr.
Revised July 1961